

A2012-33

Citizens and Business owners of Woodstock  
Woodstock, Minnesota 56186

October 24, 2011

Postal Regulatory Commission  
901 New York Avenue Northwest  
Suite 200  
Washington, DC 20268-0001

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Received

OCT 31 2011  
POSTAL REGULATORY  
COMMISSION  
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

Office of PAGR

RE: Appeal to proposed closing of the Woodstock, Minnesota U.S. Post Office

Dear Sir/Madam:

A number of us community members want you to reconsider closing our post office in Woodstock, Minnesota, and we are appealing your decision to do so.

We urge the U.S. Postal Service to place a moratorium on closings for at least two years. Governor Terry Branstad of Iowa, and Governor Earl Ray Tomblin of West Virginia are asking for a moratorium on all post office closings. The U.S. House and Senate need to give this decision more time and not rush to close our small town post offices, because once they are closed, they are probably closed forever. In addition, we are in a campaign year, and we fear that the U.S. Senate and U.S. House may not act on this issue in the next year, so we should put it off until after the 2012 elections.

We think the small-town post office closings do more damage disproportionately than laying off postal workers in large cities, because we do not just lose employees through lay-offs, we lose the entire post office. Some communities get to keep their post office, but may lose some of the work force. It is easier for a community to lose some of the work force than to lose the entire post office. Losing a post office is a harsh loss to the small, rural community.

Has the U.S. Postal Service calculated what closing 3,700 post offices may do to their revenue? Doesn't this closure have the potential to decrease revenue for the U.S. Postal Service? Another argument is that what will be saved by closing the 3,700 post offices is "small change" compared to where big dollars could be saved in other large areas. In other words, the closures will be a "small change" for the massive U.S. Postal Service, but it makes a "large change" for 3,700 communities and their hundreds of thousands of citizens. Going without Saturday mail and restructuring the billions of dollars paid ahead on retirement and pensions would be where the big dollars of savings could be found. Further, it appears that the U.S. government is rewarding a relative few individuals with their so-called guaranteed pensions and retirement benefits, but it is going to penalize hundreds of thousands of us who have to deal daily with lower quality services from the U.S. Postal Service. And we will deal daily with this problem every day for the next five, ten, twenty and thirty years while a very limited number of "fat cats" get their full pensions and retirement benefits. The principle here is wrong in that a few will benefit but many will suffer.

Woodstock Service, our local diesel and auto repair shop is very concerned about packages, namely, will they come late, will someone from the postal service stop in and see if there are packages to send?, etc. Our local farm coop, Chandler Feed and Grain, is concerned about many packages that they send out, and how will they be weighed, how will packages be insured?, etc. Our local businesses are concerned about decreased profitability and extra costs. We are also concerned about what negative economic impact a lack of a post office will have on our community. Losing a post office tends to reduce traffic on main street.

We petition you not to close our post office in Woodstock, Minnesota. Please grant a two-year moratorium so that more ideas can be tried first to decrease your costs and increase your revenue.

Respectfully submitted on behalf of the Woodstock, Minnesota Community,

Mike Lingen  
Signature

10-24-11  
Date

Mike Lingen Chandler Feed Co  
Printed name

Manager  
Title

530 3rd Ave North  
Address

Woodstock MN 56186  
City State Zip Code

Mike Manderscheid  
Signature

10-24-2011  
Date

Mike Manderscheid  
Printed name

Mayor  
Title

120 Peterson St N  
Address

Woodstock MN 56186  
City State Zip Code

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Gary Ambrose, M.S., LADC 10/24/11  
Signature Date

Gary Ambrose, M.S., LADC Administrator  
Printed name Title

New Life Treatment Center, 130 Dakota St. S.  
Address

Woodstock, MN 56186  
City State Zip Code

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Kathy O'Neal-Staci Burmeister 10/25/11  
Signature Date

Staci's Bar & Grill owner  
Printed name Title

217 Main St  
Address

Woodstock MN 56186  
City State Zip Code

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Shawna Veldhuizen  
Signature

10-25-11  
Date

Shawna Veldhuizen  
Printed name

Program Director  
Title

New Life Treatment Center Dakota St.  
Address

Woodstock MN 54186  
City State Zip Code

Reid T. Stokesbury  
Signature  
Woodstock Service

10/25/2011  
Date

Reid T. Stokesbury  
Printed name  
Woodstock Service

owner  
Title

430 2nd Ave. N. Box 5  
Address

Woodstock MN 56186  
City State Zip Code

Paul Killitz  
Signature

10-25-11  
Date

K-Birkview Farms  
Brad Krausselbrink  
Printed name

Owner  
Title

1153 180th Ave  
Address

Woodstock, Mn. 56186  
City State Zip Code

Jim Anderson  
Signature

10-25-11  
Date

Jim Anderson  
Printed name

City Council member  
Title

Woodstock City Council  
Address

Woodstock Mn. 56186  
City State Zip Code